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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, UR

SUBJECT: OPERATIONS OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC
RELATIONS (GKES)

1. DURING MEETING NOVEMBER 26 WITH VISITING SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE STAFFER GILMORE AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS (GKES) I.A.

KUL'YEV PROVIDED SOME INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF GKES.

2. ACCORDING TO KUL'YEV, ON VOLUME BASIS, GKES DOES 61
PERCENT OF ITS BUSINESS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 36 PERCENT
WITH OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES, AND THE REMAINING 3 PERCENT
WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN
GKES AND WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE VERY RECENT DEVELOPMENT AND INDICATED
THAT HE EXPECTED WESTERN COUNTRIES TO PLAY LARGER ROLE IN GKES
OPERATIONS IN FUTURE.

3. ALTHOUGH IN PAST GKES HAS EXTENDED BOTH GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCIAL
CREDITS TO EASTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES,
BULK OF PROJECTS WHICH GKES AND ITS SUBORDINATE FOREIGN TRADE
ORGANIZATIONS WILL CARRY OUT IN THESE COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE
WILL BE TRANSACTED ON COMMERCIAL BASIS THROUGH CLEARING ARRANGE-
MENTS WHICH USSR HAS WITH EACH COUNTRY. KUL'YEV NOTED THAT IN
IMMEDIATE POST-1949 PERIOD, GKES HAS EXTENDED "VERY LARGE"
CREDITS TO PRC, ALL OF WHICH HAD NOW BEEN REPAID.

4. KUL'YEV CLAIMED THAT GKES WAS GOING TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE
IN MAJOR PROJECTS WHICH SOVIET UNION PLANS TO UNDERTAKE
WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES OUTSIDE USSR. AS EXAMPLES, HE SAID THAT
GKES HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR IRAN-USSR-FRG GAS DEAL AND
FOR KALININGRAD NUCLEAR POWER STATION WHICH IS UNDER
DISCUSSION WITH FRG. AS REGARDS FORMER, KUL'YEV SAID ALL POINTS
HAD BEEN AGREED AND FINAL CONTRACTS WOULD BE SIGNED SHORTLY.
AS FAR AS KALININGRAD PROJECT CONCERNED, HE SAID SEVERAL PROBLEMS
REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED. ONLY SPECIFIC POINT HE MENTIONED,
HOWEVER, WAS DISAGREEMENT ON COST OF ELECTRIC POWER TO BE DELIVERED

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TO FRG. HE DID NOT MENTION WEST BERLIN ASPECT.
5. KUL'YEV'S OFFICE AT GKES IS DOMINATED BY LARGE MAP OF AFRICA,
ON WHICH THE ROUTE OF THE TAN-ZAM RAILROAD HAS BEEN MARKED IN
HEAVY BLUE TAPE. IN VIEW OF KUL'YEV'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR AFRICA
WITHIN GKES (IN ADDITION TO WESTERN EUROPE AND THE U.S.),
THE ADDITION OF THE TAN-ZAM RAILROAD PROBABLY INDICATED A REMINDER
OF A BIG PROJECT WHICH WAS LOST BY THE GKES.
STOESSEL